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Smokey Says ... Campers Need Fire Prevention Too!

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R V CAMPING

- Before leaving on a trip thoroughly check vehicle exhaust systems, generator engines and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you don't have smoke or carbon monoxide detectors in your RV, install them.
- Park your RV in a clear area so the exhaust doesn't ignite dry vegetation.
- Properly ventilate your RV when cooking. Open a window or overhead vent and turn on an exhaust fan.
- Do not use cooking appliances for heat.
- Place a 5-pound, ABC-rated fire extinguisher near each exit and know how to use them.

IF YOU SMELL GAS IN YOUR RV

- Extinguish all open flames (pilot lights, lamps, smoking materials, etc.)
- Do not operate electrical switches.
- Shut off the gas supply.
- Open all doors, windows and vents.
- Leave the RV until the odor is gone.
- Have the gas system checked and repaired before using it again.

IN CASE OF FIRE

- Know your location and the location of the nearest telephone.
- Send someone to call the fire department and provide directions to your location.
- If the fire is small attempt to extinguish it.
- Stay calm!

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P. O. Box 830815
Lincoln, NE 68583-0815
(402) 472-2944
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www.nfs.unl.edu

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Photos courtesy Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.



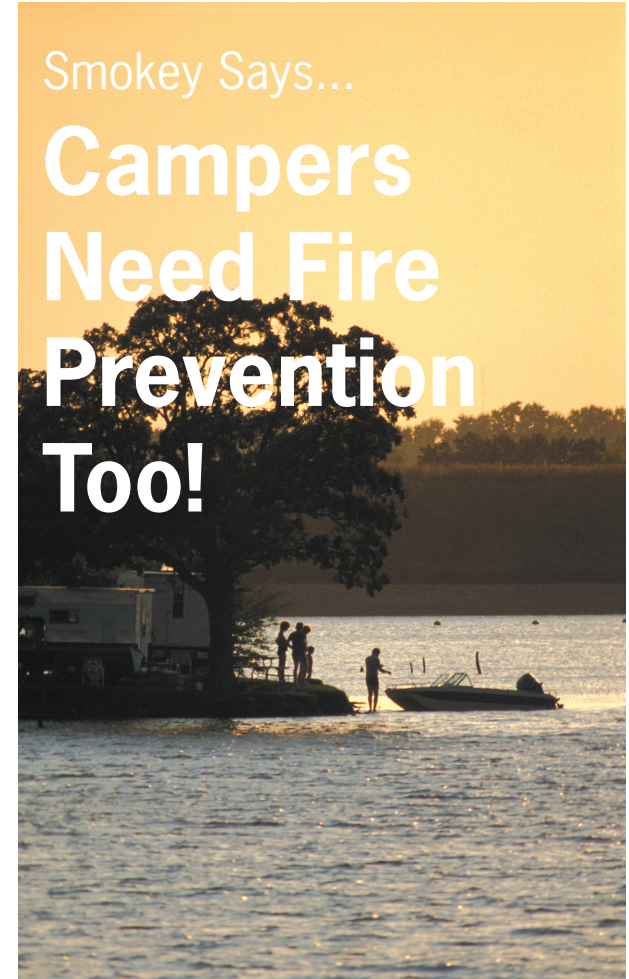
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[2008]



Nebraska Forest Service

Smokey Says...
**Campers
Need Fire
Prevention
Too!**



Every year thousands of Nebraskans escape the hustle of daily life by heading to the great outdoors. As Nebraska's wildland guardian, Smokey Bear wants to remind everyone of some simple fire prevention rules that, when followed, will preserve our valuable natural resources.



CAMP SITE

Select a site:

- with easy access to water;
- sheltered from the prevailing winds;
- free of overhanging tree limbs and
- large enough to allow plenty of space between tents and campfires.



Campfires add ambience to a campsite but should be used with caution. Always build your campfire downwind from your tent or RV in an area that is clear of vegetation. Never leave your campfire unattended and remember to fully extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving your campsite.

CAMPFIRES

If campfires are permitted locally:

- Use only designated campfire areas (if provided).
- Clear an area at least 15 feet surrounding your tent and/or any buildings.
- Clear ground cover to bare dirt at least 5 feet in all directions from the campfire.
- Place campfire downwind from your tent or RV.
- Keep your campfire small.
- Never leave campfires unattended.
- Fully extinguish your campfire, using water, before leaving the area or going to bed at night.
- Stack extra firewood 15 feet away from the campfire.

FIREWOOD ALERT!

Help prevent the spread of invasive forest pests by purchasing locally harvested firewood at your campsite!

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a highly invasive exotic pest that attacks and kills all native ash species, including white, green, black and autumn purple ash. The insect was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has spread to Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Ontario, Canada. As of 2008, more than 25 million ash trees are dead or dying in these areas.

Non-native insects, such as EAB, can be spread through the transport of infested firewood. Once introduced to new areas, these pests quickly become established and threaten local tree resources. By purchasing locally harvested firewood and burning all wood on site, campers can help minimize this risk.

For more information about EAB, visit www.nfs.unl.edu or www.emeraldashborer.info.



Before your trip, check your RV to make sure the exhaust system, generator engines and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. If your RV doesn't have smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, install them. Place a 5-pound, ABC-rated fire extinguisher near each exit and make sure everyone knows how to use them properly.

CAMP COOKING

- Place your grill or stove on a solid level surface to prevent tipping.
- Place your grill or stove at least 5 feet away from any combustible materials.
- Place your grill or stove downwind from people, tents and/or buildings.
- Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start your grill charcoal.
- Use only enough charcoal for the amount of cooking you will be doing.
- Don't allow cooking oil to get too hot and ignite.
- Always use long-handled barbeque tools.
- Always fully extinguish coals when leaving the camp site or at the end of the day.